

## **Can You Trust Your Conscience, Part 2**

*Charles Stanley*

### I. Introduction.

- A. The conscience is the instrument given by God that is given to help keep us from making wrong decisions.
- B. The Christian's conscience is much more sensitive because of the Word of God and the guidance of the Spirit.
- C. To ignore the conscience is to invite disaster.

### II. Different types of conscience. (I Timothy 4)

#### A. A sacred conscience.

- 1. This is a good conscience—one in harmony with God and His will. (Acts 24:16)
- 2. This is one that is clean in its devotion before God. (II Timothy 1:3)

#### B. A soiled conscience. (Titus 2)

- 1. The conscience is defiled because the person himself is defiled.
- 2. The wrath of God comes to those who defile sacred things. (Ephesians 4:17)
- 3. A soiled conscience is one un-surrendered to God.
  - a. There is a subtle desire to be punished.
  - b. Sin has temporal consequences. There is a strike against self-esteem.

#### C. A struggling conscience. (I Corinthians 8)

- 1. Legalism is not Scriptural.
- 2. We do not have global responsibility for everything.
- 3. Perfectionism produces false guilt.
- 4. The solution is to be transparent. Do not be too proud to tell someone you have a problem.

#### D. A seared conscience. (I Timothy 4)

- 1. This is one that no longer functions.
- 2. Characteristics: deliberate, by degrees, defensive, defiant, destructive and dangerous.

III. How to sharpen the conscience.

A. Take notes about what God is saying—stay in the Word of God.

B. Be obedient instantaneously without argument towards God.

C. Ask the Lord for revelation with regard to a soiled conscience. Repent of a soiled conscience. Deal with the dirty conscience.

**Application questions:**

1. To which type of conscience do you tend to gravitate? Explain.

---

---

2. Who are some people in your life that are good to tell your problems? Are the people good influences that you would trust to be honest? Why or why not?

---

---

3. Which tip for sharpening the conscience do you find to be the most valuable? Explain.

---

---